



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

MORE EFFICIENT USE OF TAX-PAYER MONEY THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

USAID and the Public Procurement Bureau announced the launch of a new system that integrates the e-Procurement system with a software solution developed by the Public Procurement Bureau for publishing contract notices and notifications. This integrated software creates a one-stop-shop for public procurement in Macedonia, improving the efficiency and transparency of the public procurement system in the country.

"This system is among the most advanced electronic procurement systems in the world. Neither the U.S. Government nor EU countries have managed to automate the whole procurement process on a national level. The system in Macedonia has been recognized at many international procurement conferences, and several neighboring countries have already expressed a strong interest in following Macedonia's lead." said Philip Reeker, US Ambassador to Macedonia.

The American people, through USAID, have provided comprehensive support to the reform of Macedonia's public procurement system by streamlining complex procedures and improving the interaction between government institutions and the business community with the use of information technology.

The USAID e-Government Project (eGov) has helped the Government of Macedonia establish an electronic procurement system that fully complies with European Union directives and supports all forms of public procurement, including electronic-auctions. The e-auctions, through which the government seeks the lowest price for the goods and services they are purchasing, have been tremendously valuable, saving the government U.S. \$1.7 million in 2009. Last year, the eGov project trained 840 people from the public and business sector on how to use the e-procurement system. Currently, there are over 1900 registered users of the system in Macedonia.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The partnership between the USAID eGov Project and the Public Procurement Bureau in the implementation of the e-Procurement system was marked as highly successful in the latest Impact survey on the USAID's eGov Project activities. More information on the e-procurement system is available at www.eGov.org.mk.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.